EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CRISIS AT THE GPO

HON. MICHAEL D. BARNES
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1982

● Mr. BARNES. Mr. Speaker, the relationship of the Public Printer, Danford Sawyer, Jr., with both the Joint Committee on Printing and his own employees at the Government Printing Office (GPO) has been steadily deteriorating for some time. Mr. Sawyer has attacked GPO's employees, arguing that they are both overpaid and inefficient.

When Mr. Sawyer testified before the Senate at his confirmation hearings, he spoke of his admiration for GPO employees, who produced high-caliber work under difficult working conditions and extraordinary time pressures. Among his other comments were the following:

I think the quality of the operation is excellent. * * * Frankly I stand in awe of their ability to produce.

The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in itself in one evening is a feat, but to also produce the Register and the extraordinary number of bills and reports and what have you that are also produced is quite a feat.

The production staff and other supporting departments in the Government Printing Office are of extremely high caliber. * * * The work produced is on a time schedule that is almost miraculous.

Mr. Sawyer also spoke of his willingness to work out agreements with union representatives in an atmosphere of cooperation, and he spoke of working in harmony with the Joint Committee on Printing.

But since taking office, the Public Printer has created a state-of-siege mentality at GPO and has also succeeded in angering Congress by refusing to recognize our policy-setting power over the agency.

Mr. Sawyer has indicated he will institute furloughs of GPO employees, the legality of which is being challenged in Federal court, and he has also refused to bargain with union representatives over wages. He has offered the union instead a final wage proposal that would reduce employee wages by 22 percent over the next 3 years. He has not acknowledged the May 1982 resolution by the Joint Committee on Printing which directs him to abandon plans for furloughing GPO employees until a long-range study of printing needs for the Federal Government and Congress can be evaluated.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but wonder what happened to the conciliatory and cooperative attitude Mr. Sawyer displayed such a short time ago. His inflexible and combative stance on many issues has hampered the work of the agency. His policies threaten to interrupt the crucial services which the GPO provides to Congress and the rest of the Government and the public generally.

I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to other aspects of the situation at GPO. Mr. Sawyer has claimed that salaries of GPO craft workers exceed the salaries of their counterparts in the private sector. Union spokesmen and the staff of our own Joint Committee on Printing argue that the private sector salary figures are distorted because they include, among other things, wages paid to nonunion private-sector workers.

Mr. Sawyer says he has been advised by GPO's General Counsel of his right to furlough GPO employees under the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978. The American Law Division of the Library of Congress has concluded just the opposite, that the Public Printer does not have unilateral authority to alter the existing workweek of agency personnel.

Mr. Sawyer has also been seeking congressional support for his actions outside the Joint Committee on Printing, which he has said he hopes will be abolished.

I urge my colleagues to follow the situation at the Government Printing Office closely. The controversy caused by Mr. Sawyer's behavior must be resolved quickly, and if it is not we must be ready to act to reassert congressional authority over the agency.●

AUB—BRIDGE OF UNDERSTANDING

HON. SILVIO O. CONTE
OF MASSACHUETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1982

● Mr. CONTE. Mr. Speaker, events of recent days in Lebanon once again have reminded us how important it is to maintain a bridge of understanding between the United States and the Middle East. The problems which confront that region of the world are immense, and they often appear intractable. Most nations of the Middle East nonetheless look in one way or another to the United States to help find a solution, even while distrust of our motives there is pervasive. This state of affairs underscores the invaluable role played by a unique institution—the American University of Beirut—in assuring that the dialog between the Arab world and ourselves continues.

AUB has provided a link between East and West for the past 116 years, and, its day-in-day-out service to the region has made it a trusted American presence. Its long-time commitment to an American liberal arts education has been instrumental in introducing Western ideas and values to the Middle East, while it simultaneously has served to integrate the best of Arab culture with our own traditions. The universal respect this has engendered enables the university to continue its operations untouched in war-torn Lebanon. I think my colleagues can agree that this is an example of America at its best and a link to the Middle East which we can ill afford to lose. Unfortunately, events in Lebanon have placed AUB in financial jeopardy, and this institution must have support from her friends both here and in the Middle East to see her through troubled times.

An informative article about AUB's historic role and her present difficulties appeared in the June 3, 1982 edition of the Wall Street Journal. I am certain my colleagues will find it timely to learn more about this important American institution, and I ask that it be printed at this point in the RECORD.

[From The Wall Street Journal, June 3, 1982]

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT IS AN OASIS IN A NATION AT WAR: DUBBED "GUERRILLA U." IN SEVENTIES, ALMA MATER OF STATESMEN HAS BIG FUNDING PROBLEM

(By David Ignatius)

BEIRUT.—Entering the gates of the American University of Beirut is like waking up from a bad dream: The snipers and car bombs that afflict the rest of the Lebanese captial give way to a campus of quiet academic buildings and palm and cypress trees on 73 acres that slope down to the Mediterranean.

Founded in 1866 by a Protestant missionary from Vermont, the university functions today in a modern heart of darkness. Kidnapping and assassination have become a way of life in this city during the past seven years of Lebanon's intermittent civil war. The university has avoided the devastation of the rest of the city by remaining friends with all the feuding factions. But its officials have watched the national slide toward anarchy as if they were observing a favorite pupil going mad.

The university, known here as AUB, dreamed a generation ago that its liberal-arts education would help establish democracy and tolerance in Lebanon and the rest of the Arab world. Today, in a city ruled by guns, AUB has a less-ambitious goal: survival as a free university.

Conversations with the faculty make clear that this struggle isn't easy. Munthir Ku-

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by the Member on the floor.

zayli, director of the AUB hospital, treats patients even when local fighting blocks supplies of oxygen, sutures and syringes to the institution, located near the campus but not inside its walls. But he drew the line recently, and refuse to provide emergency care for five days, after one of Beirut's armed gangs started shooting in the emergency room.

STOICAL ATTITUDE

Professors have adopted a stoical attitude: Elie Salem, the dean of the faculty of arts and sciences, says he decided long ago to forget about bombings, on the theory that he will never hear the explosion that actually kills him. The chairman of the chemistry department, Maklouf Haddadine, says he resolved to stay here and continue teaching because "you can't run away faster than a bullet."

"Everybody in Lebanon has been in a state of shell shock for the last seven years, and this takes its toll," says Malcolm Kerr, AUB's newly appointed president. The 50-year-old Mr. Kerr was born in Beirut—his father taught at AUB—and he received a master's degree in Arab studies from AUB before getting his Ph.D. at the Johns Hopkins School of International Studies. He will be moving to Beirut this June with his wife and child from his present post as a professor at the University of California at Los Angeles. He doesn't seem worried. "I've been impressed by the durability of the place," he says.

Indeed, despite Lebanon's troubles, AUB's student enrollment has risen steadily in recent years. The current total of about 4,850 compares with 2,269 in the 1957-58 academic year and 3,491 in the 1967-68 academic year and is just slightly below the target of about 5,000 set in early 1975, before the civil war began.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The war, however, has wrought significant changes. Today, roughly 70% of the AUB's students are from Lebanon (including Palestinians living in Lebanon), compared with a prewar average of 55%. And the faculty of 485 is substantially smaller than the 800 positions that the university a few years ago thought would be necessary to support the current student population.

AUB students these days, unlike the campus radicals of 10 years ago, seem grateful for the refuge the university provides from Lebanon's tormented politics. "The students have learned their lesson," says Radwan Mawlawi, AUB's director of information. "They have become more serious, taking care of their studies before anything else."

Students gathered in the campus quadrangle, dressed mostly in jeans and T-shirts, don't seem very different from their American counterparts. Jawad Saba, a Lebanese senior majoring in engineering and editor of the yearbook, discusses his plans for getting a well-paying job in Saudi Arabia after he graduates. Imad Hannoun, a Palestinian senior, talks eagerly about going on to the California Institute of Technology next for graduate study. (AUB itself has 38 graduate programs, mostly offering master's degrees, in subjects ranging from English literature to electrical engineering.)

"The typical AUB student is interested in eating, sleeping, studying, watching TV at night, seeing his girlfriend every day and going to the movies twice a week," says Omar Tuffahah, a 23-year-old senior.

There are a few political posters on the campus walls. But they are overshadowed by a banner proclaiming: "Excite your molecules. Have an explosive reaction at the chemistry department dance."

AUB today is a far cry from the stern idealism of its founder, Daniel Bliss. He hoped to build a bridge between East and West, guiding the Arab world toward American values and—if possible—the Protestant religion.

The university dropped its religious mission after some early battles, including a strike by Moslem students who refused to sing hymns in chapel. But the goal of spreading American values was implicit in the university's charter, which remains in effect: Teaching would be in English; the university would be owned and supervised by a board of trustees in New York; and degrees would be awarded under a license granted by the New York State Board of Regents.

For decades, the AUB ethic pervaded the Middle East. Students flocked here from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Syria and Lebanon for an American-style education. Many of them returned home to become presidents, prime ministers and cabinet officials. An AUB catalog boasts that in 1945, at the first session of the United Nations in San Francisco, 19 of the signers of the U.N. charter were AUB graduates.

At AUB, "We were breast-fed the milk of freedom," says Saeb Salem, an AUB graduate and former prime minister of Lebanon. "It was at this American institution," he told a recent AUB gathering, "that we learned of this freedom which urged us to oppose imperialism and imperialists."

In those heady days, the university took pride in its reputation as the center of an "Arab awakening." The "imperialists," at that time, were Britain and France, and many of AUB's leading graduates—such as Charles Malik, class of 1927 and former president of the U.N. General Assembly—were strongly pro-American.

But in the 1960s, the radicalism of AUB students began to assume an anti-American tone, largely because of Arab anger at U.S. support for Israel. The symbol of that new mood was George Habash, a Palestinian who graduated from the AUB medical school in 1951 and went on to found the terrorist "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine." By 1970, student strikes and demonstrations regularly halted classes, and an American news magazine was calling AUB "Guerrilla U."

As Arab politics became more radical and polarized, AUB found that its liberal approach to education had few defenders. The late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia attacked the university as "the worst center for spreading communism" in the Middle East. At the other extreme, a Palestinian terrorist named Leilah Khaled, who studied here in 1961, contended that AUB was an "intellectual graveyard" that "only excelled in producing CIA spies and ministers."

Perhaps inevitably, a university that had tried to bridge East and West discovered that it was losing friends on both sides.

The U.S. government, which for years viewed AUB as an investment in a stable and friendly Mideast, became disenchanted with its radical aura. Contributions from the U.S. Agency for International Development, which accounted for 45% of AUB's budget in 1971, slipped gradually toward this year's meager level of 7%.

Arab governments, meanwhile, became increasingly wary of supporting anything that was explicitly "American." Contributions from the many AUB graduates working in the oil-rich Persian Gulf increased. But they failed to offset the decline in U.S. support, leaving AUB with a deficit estimated this year at about $3 million.

"Like any poor university, we need money," says Suliman Olayan, a prominent Saudi businessman who is a member of the AUB board of trustees. AUB officials say they haven't any choice but to keep pushing for contributions from both the gulf countries and the U.S. "This isn't purely an American or an Arab institution," says the new president, Mr. Kerr. "It's ours and it's theirs, and it has to be supported by all sides."

The cruelest blow to AUB's hopes came here in Lebanon, which once exemplified the university's ideal of Arab democracy. The civil war that began in 1975 turned the country into an arena for both Arab-Israeli conflict and inter-Arab rivalries. Suddenly, AUB graduates were joining militias associated with the various political groups, religious sects and ruling families of Lebanon and seeking to kill each other.

The university's response to the Lebanese war was to retrench as an educational institution. The faculty went for months on half pay. Professors at the medical school slept at the university hospital for weeks on end. And by pressing ahead with classes despite the fighting, AUB managed to complete the 1975-76 academic year on schedule. Degrees have been awarded regularly every year since then.

In a message to the faculty last year, Dean Salem summarized the hardships AUB has faced since 1975:

"Consider the problem of the professor whose landlord wants to evict him in order to benefit from new rent, whose car has been stolen, whose telephone has been illegally disconnected, whose elevator stopped five years ago, whose apartment is without water, whose electricity is regularly cut, whose children travel a precarious route to school—and consider the magnitude of the distraction that has been imposed on him by the war.

"In the face of uncertainty," Dean Salem concluded, "we are free, either to despair and let this university slide to its doom, or to affirm our fundamental trust in its continuity."●

EVANS AND NOVAK DESCRIBE LIFE UNDER THE PLO

HON. JONATHAN B. BINGHAM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1982

● Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am growing a little tired of newspaper reports which attack the Israeli move into Lebanon without any reference to the years of PLO occupation of Lebanon that preceded it. It is one thing to decry the loss of life in Lebanon but it is quite another to imply that things were better before the Israelis moved in. In fact, things were terrible in Lebanon well before June 5. The PLO had virtually ended Lebanese sovereignty and had terrorized the people of Lebanon, Moslems as well as Christians.

The Washington Post columnists Evans and Novak describe what it was like to live under PLO occupation.

Their column of June 25 must be read. I might add that Rowland Evans and Robert Novak are hardly known for their pro-Israel bias.

[From the Washington Post, June 25, 1982]

THE PLO AS AN OCCUPYING POWER

(By Roland Evans and Robert Novak)

SIDON, LEBANON.—Israel's accusation that the PLO was a rogue elephant whose arms and swagger created resentment and fear in Lebanon's largest cities was no fabrication.

That becomes clearer as the initial shock of the Israeli invasion dissipates and the Lebanese, picking up the threads of life, start talking.

The PLO was born out of Israel's statehood in Palestine and its later occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, creating generations of refugees. Once incorruptible, its extraordinary success in accumulating arms and money despite political failure to retrieve part of its land has made the PLO itself an occupying power—a power without responsibility.

The ambition of the PLO—Palestinian self-determination on the West Bank—remains an exemplary cause that President Reagan may soon decide needs redemption. But the PLO's methods of attaining it in Lebanese cities we visited up to Beirut tend to support Israel's claim that the PLO has become permeated by thugs and adventurers.

"The worst elements in the PLO took over from the best," a Christian Lebanese surgeon told us in Sidon. A whiff of decaying flesh was in the air from bodies rotting under tons of debris bulldozed off the main streets.

We encountered the surgeon by chance. We asked him how the people of Sidon like the Israeli invaders. His answer: "If you want to know, come to my farm and see."

The farm, on a strategic hilltop overlooking the harbor, had been taken over without negotiation, compensation or advance notice by local PLO commanders in 1974. The house was littered with the refuse of six years—filthy uniforms, broken chairs, slogans on the walls. That was the least of it. Two small barns were packed with munitions, guns, dynamite, detonators, even made-in America helmets still in their crates.

Hidden in the orchard were two heavy artillery pieces. In a shed in the pigpen were dozens of unopened cartons of hand grenades. The wreckage of 12 automobiles, said by the surgeon-farmer to have been "requisitioned" by the PLO down in the city, littered the front yard.

"You ask how do we like the Israelis," the doctor said. "Now you can see. Compared to the hell we have had in Lebanon, the Israelis are brothers."

While the PLO occupied and ravaged his farm, the surgeon-farmer lived in a small downtown apartment. But for the 60,000 Lebanese in Sidon (a population that had swelled with 240,000 Palestinian refugees by the time the Israeli army arrived), surviving the PLO was another kind of hell.

A young teacher told us about it. A Shi'ite Moslem, she had lost an uncle killed in the Israeli invasion. Her brother was being held by the Israelis. That would seem to be reason for anger, but there was none. "We have not been able to keep our schools open," she told us. The PLO toughs made classrooms too dangerous. Girls were molested. Schools shut down.

With her were three other young Lebanese: a Maronite Christian, a Shi'ite Moslem and a Sunni Moslem. Each in turn told a similar story: an apartment taken over by the PLO, car stolen, thievery in town up by a recorded 5,000 percent, vineyard and orchards ruined.

Israeli soldiers were conspicuous everywhere in Tyre and Sidon on our June 22 visit. They represented a totality of military power inconceivable to the only people contiguous to the Jewish state never—until June 6—invaded by the might of Israel.

Yet, in the two cities of Tyre and Sidon, there is reason to take seriously the Israeli estimate of Lebanese casualties: a total of 250 killed and less than 1,000 wounded.

Perhaps those low casualties had some impact on the Lebanese when the shooting stopped. Perhaps the final outcome in Beirut will change opinions even here. But that seemed unlikely.

More probable in the aftermath of the Lebanese invasion is this: the PLO is justly accused of a grave disservice to the people who took it in here and to the people it represents. To itself, the disservice is greatest of all.●

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD HODGES

HON. DON EDWARDS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1982

● Mr. EDWARDS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding work being done by a dedicated teacher in my district. An unselfish, dedicated, challenging and intelligent educator adds immeasurably to the wealth of our Nation. What such a teacher gives to the students will be returned to our society tenfold.

Mr. Edward Hodges is a science teacher at Herbert Hoover Junior High School in San Jose, Calif. He is a demanding teacher, expecting and getting high caliber work from his students. In his spare time he is the sponsor of the Hoover Hiking Club and the Hoover Bicycle Club. He gives hundreds of hours each year to both of these organizations. On alternating years he trains and conditions his seventh and eighth graders for a trip completely paid for by the students. Recycling and paper collection provide some of the expense money.

He has taken the students to Alaska, Death Valley, the Emigrant Gap and various other places. The team leaders are past students who participated in hiking trips and who are now in high school and college. This year he took his seventh and eighth grade boys and girls on a 7-day hike of 62 miles recreating the Donner Party's trail from Reno to Emigrant Gap. Each student had various conditioning tests throughout the year that he or she had to pass. They had books to read that dealt with the Donner Party's ordeal and many conditioning hikes were required to be elibible for the final backpacking hike.

Being 13 or 14 years old in today's society is very tough in and of itself. "Hodge" offers his students a challenge that will help prepare them for the challenges they will face in the years ahead.

It has been my pleasure to have recently spoken with some of the students who went on the Donner Trail trip. Mr. Hodges dedication has opened new horizons for these young people. They are sure of themselves; they know they can do the hard task; they will succeed.

Thank you, Mr. Hodges. We are all in your debt.●

TO MEMORIALIZE LEONARD YANDALL

HON. FOFO I. F. SUNIA

OF SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1982

● Mr. SUNIA. Mr. Speaker, one of the most highly respected residents of the territory of American Samoa passed away recently and I rise today to call attention to his achievements.

Public service is seldom the backdrop for heroism but this is not the case of Leonard Yandall—also known by his traditional chief's title, Seigafolava. As an American and a Samoan, he deserves a place among the unsung heroes who have served long and difficult years in the service of the U.S. Government. Mr. Yandall retired from his government post as territorial treasurer after 42 years of faithful and selfless service.

"Len," as we called him, never went to high school. His training consisted of attendance at the local elementary schools and eventual graduation from the Catholic Brothers School which, because of the time, stopped at grade nine. Despite these obstacles, Len rose to become one of the first Samoans to hold a legitimate position as a government administrator.

From his first job as a stockboy in the local supply depots, Len began to acquire and nurture what came to be a highly disciplined and acute mastery of the intricacies of the local government. It is a true testament to his heroic achievement that he moved from such a lowly position to control over the entire administrative services system of the Government of American Samoa. That he accomplished this at a time when few local Samoans were in positions of power is further proof of his heroic mettle.

President Reagan encourages the spirit of voluntarism in the 1980's. It should be noted that in 1977 Len provided the kind of sterling example of selfless voluntarism that the President describes. At the time, he volunteered to resume his government position on a temporary basis for free until a suit-

able permanent replacement could be found. I think it can honestly be said that Len loved the government for which he worked and wanted nothing more for it than the condition of excellence which he always pursued in everything he did.

Len's selflessness was an example to many young Samoans who found themselves in government service. When I returned home after college and received an appointment to Governor Coleman's office, Len was one of the most valuable resources that I could rely on for help or to rescue me from the complicated traps of public policy. He knew the operation of the government like the palm of his hand, and he was always ready and willing to extend this hand to teach new employees.

Len Yandall left a substantial reputation behind—one that, I doubt, will easily be matched or forgotten. He also leaves behind a loving wife, Sea, and a family of 17 children and 22 grandchildren, most of whom continue to reside in American Samoa. Six members of the family have decided to emulate their father's exemplary model through their service in the Armed Forces.

Little can be said in this short period of time that can do adequate justice to the accomplishment of one hero who did so much for so long in the service of his people. It is my own personal hope and prayer that our current crop of American Samoans in public service will be able to come half as close to the degree of excellence that we learned to expect from Len Yandall. That, in itself, will be quite a great distance.●

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

HON. AL SWIFT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1982

● Mr. SWIFT. Mr. Speaker, 200 years ago Thomas Jefferson wrote and this Nation adopted as the declaration of its independence from Great Britain these words:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights.

The words are so clear, so plain in their meaning, so definite.

Yet we fought a bloody civil war before the word "man" meant black men as well as white men. And we fought for years before the word "man" meant "woman" in regard to voting rights. Today, in law, women's rights are much more secure. But, today, it is still not in our Constitution to underline precisely what Thomas Jefferson said so long ago.

One must ponder the power of the concept of equality that so many fight so hard and so long to prevent others from having it—or to avoid accepting it. What a threat equality must be to some who are advantaged. What a fearful responsibility it must seem to some who do not have it. So powerful is it that some men and women thoughout the land have carved little footnotes in history for themselves, footnotes reserved for those who distinguished themselves by opposing the extension of human justice.

But, they will be only footnotes. The chapter will be about women and men whose efforts expanded liberty and opportunity and justice for all by fighting to assure it for American women. After all—the extension of freedom anywhere strengthens us all. The work has not been in vain and it is not yet finished.●

PAST PUTS FUTURE IN PERSPECTIVE

HON. WENDELL BAILEY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1982

● Mr. BAILEY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I am not a philosopher, but once in a while some of the homespun philosophy that makes Missouri the greatest place in the world to live creeps into my thoughts.

Down in my native Ozarks, the town of Eldon is planning its 100th birthday, September 11-18. Eldon is in the middle of the agricultural belt, but most of its citizens are proud to say it is a Bible-belt town.

A few days ago, a news-photo team of Lauren Schepker and Don Cadorette of the Jefferson City News-Tribune, took a precelebration visit to Eldon and came up with a most enterprising and thought-provoking story about Eldon and its people.

In that story, Schepker quotes Herb Harvey, one of the remaining members of one of the city's founding families, it is the churches which have kept the town alive. "We have a good number of beautiful and worthy churches who cooperate to help the town. It is not like the different churches compete against each other."

What a beautiful message. I hear Sunbelt against Frostbelt, I hear North against South, East against West, cotton against corn, wheat against rice, milk against imports—and then I hear the cry, "I Love New York." All in all, it does not seem to speak of cooperation and pulling together and I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if there is not a message there for all of us as we meet together to solve our budget problems, to solve our economic differences, just working together.

As I read that beautiful story about Eldon, I cannot help but think, let the dead past bury its dead. Some say cemeteries are not very cheerful places, but out in Eldon our cemeteries adjoin our churches, and we go forth to worship, as we do so, we see the graves of our dead and remember what they worked and strived for.

It is then we are reminded of I Corinthians 15: 52: *"For there will be a trumpet blast from the sky and all the Christians who have died will suddenly come alive, with new bodies that will never, never die; and then we who are still alive shall suddenly have new bodies, too."*

There may be no trumpet blast in Eldon September 11-18, but Eldon will come alive again in celebration for what it was—100 years—but it will come alive again to what is and what will be.

I invite all you who love New York, Washington and the rest of this great Nation, come to Eldon in September, see the beautiful autumnal foliage, hear our rippling streams and watch our sunsets. There is no place, this side of heaven, more beautiful than the lake country of Missouri—and now I think I know the reason why, its cooperation and living together, concerned with each other's problems, each other's lives.

With pleasure, I invite you to Eldon, where "Its first 100 years have been characterized by ups and downs, but residents see a proud heritage and a bright future." And, I invite you to read Schepker and Cadorette's story of a proud city.

I submit the article for the RECORD:

[From the Jefferson City News & Tribune, May 16, 1982]

ELDON

(By Lauren Schepker)

An old railroad track running through Eldon is like blood running through veins for many of the town's residents. It was the railroad which brought Eldon to life. And even though the train doesn't stop there anymore, hope of getting it back has kept the town's 5,000 residents on track.

As Eldon marks its centennial this year, residents are looking back on the town's history, and for many, the railroad tells the story. A centennial logo designed by a high school student depicts a locomotive, a church, a school and a factory. The centennial motto reads, "Born with the railroad, developed as a gateway to the Ozarks, growing with industry, tourism and agriculture, Eldon—a great way of life."

BORN WITH THE RAILROAD

In the winter of 1881, Missouri Pacific began surveying the Eldon area for the possiblity of putting in a railroad. Residents of the area, wanting to guarantee the railroad would come through, formed the Eldon Town Company to secure the right of way.

A member of the company, George Riley Weeks, donated 40 acres for a railroad depot. That 40 acres became the basis for the town. Weeks filed the plat on March 15, 1882, and Eldon was born.

"The railroad was our link to civilization," says Tina Raynor, executive director of Eldon Centennial Inc. Miss Raynor, a native of Eldon, recently returned to the town

after four years of college at Warrensburg. As director of the centennial corporation, she is compiling a book of the town's history.

Originally, the depot was to be built on Grand Avenue, then known as Upper Eldon, according to Miss Raynor. But when the tracks were laid and the train came through, the grade was too steep, and the train would not stop there. Instead, it rolled back down the hill, and where it stopped, the depot was built, she says. It burned to the ground in 1886, and later was rebuilt.

"In 1903, the Rock Island Railroad came through and made Eldon," Miss Raynor says explaining the line ran two daily trains through the town. Another founding father, Bob Harvey, donated the land for the railroad and depot. "Rock Island built a big, beautiful depot, but it also burned down," she adds.

Despite two fires which destroyed two railroad depots and cyclones which tore through churches and homes, first generation Eldon residents preserved. The depots, churches and homes were rebuilt.

"Tragic things kept happening, but they kept building things back up. A lot of towns just die out when things like that happen, but Eldon didn't," Miss Raynor said.

Hurt by commercial air travel and interstate highways, both of Eldon's railroads eventually reached the end of the line. Missouri Pacific stopped operating through Eldon in 1962 and Rock Island pulled out in 1980, but the town has not forgotten the railroads.

"it's kind of sad. Here we are celebrating our 100th birthday, born as a railroad town, and there is no railroad now," Miss Raynor says. "The railroad hurt us very badly. It is the people who have kept Eldon alive. We have a tradition of not giving up."

DEVELOPED AS A GATEWAY TO THE OZARKS, GROWING WITH INDUSTRY, TOURSIM AND AGRICULTURE

Since the early days, Eldon residents have lived up to that tradition. In the 1930's, when the railroads still were thriving, the town got an additional boost when Union Electric built the Bagnall Dam. "Eldon became a boom town," Miss Raynor says. "People came from all over to work on the dam."

Supportive industries sprang up, and in the 1940's Eldon was the home of 14 factories. When the dam was completed, many of the industries moved on, but some have survived, and new factories have located in Eldon. "Our industrial sector has been through some ups and downs over the years, but we have stabilized now," Miss Raynor says.

Agriculture has played an important part in keeping Eldon alive, with dairy farms dotting the out-lying area. "Agriculture has been wonderful," says Herb Harvey, grandmarshal of the centennial celebration. "We are right in the middle of the agriculture belt."

The Harveys are one of Eldon's founding families, and Herb Harvey is one of the few remaining family members. His grandfather founded Eldon Lumber and Hardware, which is now in its 94th year of operation. His great-uncle was Bob Harvey, who founded the Bank of Eldon—now Mercantile Bank—and donated the land for the Rock Island. Two other great-uncles were lifelong farmers.

Eldon is not only in the middle of the agriculture belt, some say it's a Bible belt town. Harvey says the churches have kept the town alive. "We have a good number of beautiful and worthy churches who cooperate to help the town," he says. "It's not like the diferent churches compete against each other."

ELDON—A GREAT WAY OF LIFE

Like Miss Raynor, Harvey returned to his hometown after stints in the service and college. "Why? If you knew the people like I do—and I know just about all of them—you would understand. I never saw anyplace else I would want to live," he says.

The school system, strength of churches and healthy economy make Eldon a great place to live, according to Harvey. "We have everything you're looking for," he says simply, "and the finest and friendliest people."

Don Pittrich is not a native of Eldon, but his love of the town matches Miss Raynor's and Harvey's. As principal of the elementary school, he has contact with both children and adults. "This is a very progressive town. People are really working towards providing the services the citizens need."

Pittrich moved to Eldon in 1960, and doesn't plan to leave. "It's home. It's a good place to live. If I didn't think that, I wouldn't be raising my kids here."

Like many towns its size, Eldon has a hard time keeping its young people. While some, like Miss Raynor and Harvey, have returned after college, some find the town holds limited career opportunities. "This job was tailor-made for me. If it hadn't been for this job, there wouldn't have been anything for me to do here," says Miss Raynor, who holds a degree in public relations.

Retaining young people might be a problem, Pittrich admits. "With the declining economy, people might want to stay. We have to come up with a job structure for them."

Eldon's 100th birthday is giving the town a boost, Miss Raynor says. Studying the past, she says, has put the future into perspective. Hopefully, the railroads will be a part of that future.

"We are working really hard to get the railroads back," she says, explaining residents of the town are lobbying senators and representatives on the governor's task force to revitalize railroads across the state. Miss Raynor hopes the centennial celebration will encourage more Eldon residents to get involved. "Every town needs a boost, and this is Eldon's big boost."

Miss Raynor also hopes her book will encourage young people to stay in Eldon. "I didn't really appreciate Eldon until I started doing research for the book. When I look back at all the wonderful things that have happened in our history, it makes me proud. We have a very honorable heritage in Eldon.

"I want to say to young people that there is nothing dishonorable about living in a small town. The air is clean, the people are great. I have seen the big city, and this is better."

ELDON SCHEDULES CENTENNIAL EVENTS

In observance of its centennial, Eldon is having a birthday party, and all of the town's friends and neighbors are invited to attend the festivities. Eldon Centennial Inc., a group formed to coordinate activities for the celebration, has planned a week of parades, entertainment and displays beginning Sept. 11.

Tentative plans for the week-long birthday party include:

Saturday, Sept. 11 will be Parade and Coronation Day. The official opening day of the centennial celebration will offer a parade, antique car show, craft show, Kangaraoo Kourt, coronation of Miss Eldon Centennial and three dances featuring big band, country western and rock music.

Sunday, Sept. 12 is Sunday-Go-To-Meeting-Day. Featured will be an old-time basket dinner, a communal church choir performance, an old-fashioned worship service in the park with Gospel singing, and a fire department competition.

Monday, Sept. 13 is Centennial Belle Day, and will feature the opening of the street carnival and history of Eldon pageant, as well as a ladies luncheon.

Tuesday, Sept. 14 is Veterans and Old Timers Day. Activities for the day will include a farmers market, military parade and drill, and an ice cream social featuring an old-fashioned band concert and medicine show. The pageant will continue.

Wednesday, Sept. 15 is Eldon, Born With the Railroad Day. Highlighting the day's events will be a train display and "something big." According to Tina Raynor, executive director of Eldon Centennial Inc., plans for the "something big" are tentative and will be announced when they are confirmed.

Thursday, Sept. 16 is Growing With Agriculture and Industry Day. A parade and display of new and old farm machinery will be featured, and agriculture contests will be held. The pageant will conclude.

Friday, Sept. 17 is Citizens Tomorrow, 100 Years In the Future Day. Included in the day's events are a magic show, a buffalo barbecue, a blue grass festival and folk dancing.

Saturday, Sept. 18 is Governors Day, and will feature a pancake breakfast and pancake eating contest, a ham and bean dinner, dedication of a time capsule, auction of a centennial mural and the first issue of the centennial book. The week will conclude with a centennial ball.●